

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 04431 190550Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 CU-04 /096 W

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R 190525Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1572

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4431

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: TOP THAI BRASS REPORTEDLY UNITED TO SUPPORT POLITICAL GROUPING

FOLLOWING RECEIVED ACTION BANGKOK FROM UDORN MARCH 18. REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE:

CONFIDENTIAL UDORN 77

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: TOP THAI BRASS REPORTEDLY UNITE TO SUPPORT POLITICAL
GROUPING

REFERENCE: UDORN 58, 64

1. SUMMARY: SUWAN THANAKANYA, FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FROM GOVT SAHA PRACHA THAI (SPT) PARTY, SAYS TOP LEVEL RTG
OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAWEE CHULASAP,
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 04431 190550Z

ARMY COMMANDER KRIT SIVARA, AND RETIRED POLICE DIRECTOR GEN-

ERAL PRASERT RUCHIRAWONG HAVE AGREED AMONG THEMSELVES TO BACK FREE NATION GROUP (FNG) DURING ELECTIONS. SUWAN SAID FNG NOW HAD SOLID PARTY ORGANIZATION IN NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL THAILAND AND WAS TRYING TO CONSOLIDATE ORGANIZATION IN NORTHEAST. WHILE BULK OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP FORMER SPT POLITICIANS, SUWAN SAID RECRUITMENT OF MEN FROM OTHER GROUPS GOING WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. SUWAN IS NOW SECRETARY TO FNG WHICH NOMINALLY HEADED BY FORMER SPT RATBURI MP THAWIT KLINPATHUM. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THAWIT WILL NOT LEAD PARTY BUT IS MERELY FRONT MAN FOR THAWEE, KRIT, AND PRASERT WHO DO NOT WANT TO REVEAL THEIR INTENTIONS YET. SUWAN SAID THESE THREE MEN HAD AGREED TO JOIN FORCES IN SUPPORT OF SINGLE PARTY RATHER THAN HEADING SEPARATE GROUPS. SUWAN DID NOT GIVE DIRECT RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF WHO WOULD HEAD FNG SHOULD IT BECOME PARTY, BUT SAID THAT THAWEE NOW MOST ACTIVE OF BIG THREE. SUWAN SAID HE THOUGHT ELECTIONS MIGHT BE AS LATE AS JANUARY 1975. THAWEE DUE TO RETIRE SEPTEMBER 1974, AND COULD BE CANDIDATE IN ELECTIONS HELD ANY TIME AFTER THAT DATE.

3. SUWAN SAID FNG ORGANIZATION IN NORTH, SOUTH, AND CENTRAL THAILAND WAS SOLID, BUT THEY STILL HAVING DIFFICULTY LINING UP MORE FRACTIOUS NORTHEAST POLITICIANS. HE DISMISSED GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH KOSA HOTEL MEETING AS RADICALS WITHOUT HOPE OF FORMING MAJOR PARTY. SUWAN WAS LESS DISTURBED ABOUT THREAT OF RIVAL GROUPS THAN HE WAS ABOUT TIME IT WAS TAKING CERTAIN NORTHEAST POLITICIANS TO FALL IN LINE WITH HIS OWN GROUP.

4. SUWAN SAID FNG WOULD TAKE CENTRAL POSITION IN POLITICAL SPECTRUM BETWEEN LEFTISTS, INCLUDING STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS, AND RIGHTISTS WHOM HE DID NOT SPECIFY. HE STRESSED THAT FNG UNDERSTOOD NEED FOR U.S. MILITARY IN THAILAND BUT WOULD PROBABLY URGE SOME REDUCTIONS IN U.S. FORCES. HE ANTICIPATED, HOWEVER, THAT OTHER GROUPS WOULD CALL FOR TOTAL OUSTER AND HAD HEARD THAT THIS INCLUDED IN DISCUSSIONS OF PLATFORM AT KOSA MEETING WHICH HE DID NOT ATTEND. HAMILTON KINTNER

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